

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Richmond Division**

IN RE:

Case No. 08-35653-KRH

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., et al.

Chapter 11 (Jointly administered)

Debtors,

**MOTION OF CROSSWAYS FINANCIAL ASSOCIATES, LLC
FOR PAYMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM**

NOW COMES, Crossways Financial Associates, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, formerly known as Cannon Ridge Gardens Associates, L.P., a Virginia limited partnership, the assignee from Tidevest Limited Partnership Associates, a Georgia limited partnership ("Landlord"), by and through its undersigned counsel, appears before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division ("Court") pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 503(b), and moves the Court for allowance and payment of a Chapter 11 administrative expense claim arising under a non-residential real property lease between Landlord, as lessor, and Circuit City Stores, Inc. (the "Debtor") as lessee ("Administrative Expense Motion"), and respectfully represents as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this Administrative Expense Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue of this Motion is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

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Cannon Ridge Gardens Associates, L.P.,*

a Virginia limited partnership, the assignee from

Tidevest Limited Partnership Associates, a Georgia limited partnership

BACKGROUND

2. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

3. Since the Petition Date, the Debtor has continued to operate its business as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections §§ 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. The Debtor, as tenant, and Tidevest Limited Partnership Associates, a Georgia limited partnership, (the "Original Landlord"), entered into a lease ("Lease") dated July 28, 1995. The Lease was assigned to Crossways Financial Associates, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, formerly known as Cannon Ridge Gardens Associates, L.P., a Virginia limited partnership, the current Landlord on the Lease. The Debtor leases retail space at the shopping center known as the Crossways Shopping Center located in Chesapeake ("Leasehold Premises").

5. Debtor has continued to occupy and use the Leasehold Premises from the Petition Date, through the date the Lease was rejected by the Debtor pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 365, but has failed to pay the following post-petition rent and other charges due under the terms of the Lease for the period from November 10, 2008 through November 30, 2008 ("Stub Rent Period"):

<u>Expenses Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Base Rent (11/10/08 – 11/30/08)	\$26,332.20
Common Area Maintenance Escrow (11/10/08 – 11/30/08)	\$722.15
Real Estate Taxes (11/10/08 – 11/30/08)	\$5,704.13
TOTAL	\$32,758.48

6. Pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtor became and remains liable for the post-petition rent and related lease obligations arising under the Lease, including those arising during the Stub Rent Period. Specifically, post-petition rent and common area maintenance obligations reserved under the Lease are required to be satisfied timely and in full pursuant to § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

(3) The trustee shall timely perform all of the obligations of the debtor, except those specified in section 365(b)(2), arising from and after the order for relief under any unexpired lease of nonresidential real property, until such lease is assumed or rejected, notwithstanding section 503(b)(1) of this title...

7. As set forth above, the Debtor's estate is liable for the specified obligations arising under the Lease for the Stub Rent Period in the amount of \$32,758.48, which is an administrative expense of the Debtor's estate under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.

8. In addition to Landlord's entitlement to the foregoing sum as an administrative expense claim under § 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code, Landlord is also entitled to the allowance of such amount under § 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in relevant part as follows:

After a notice and a hearing, there shall be allowed, administrative expenses, ...including –

(1)(A) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate, including –
 (i) wages, salaries and commissions for services rendered after the commencement of the case...

9. In order to qualify for administrative expense status under § 503(b), the claimant must demonstrate that the claim was incurred post-petition and that the claim is an actual, necessary expense of the estate. In re O'Brien Environmental Energy, Inc., 181 F.3d 527 (3d Cir. 1999). A lessor seeking administrative expense priority for a post-petition rent claim need not demonstrate that the "debtor's continued possession of its space is a benefit to the estate" in order to prevail on its administrative claim. In re Trak Auto Corp., 277 B.R. 655, 665 (Bankr. E.D.Va. 2002), *rev'd on other grounds*, 367 F.3d 237 (4th Cir. 2004). Notwithstanding, Landlord's post-petition claim for obligations arising during the Stub Rent Period is an appropriate administrative expense claim under § 503(b) since, among other things, the Debtor used and occupied the leasehold premises for that period.

10. It is well established that, absent evidence to the contrary, the "amount fixed by the lease is presumed to represent the reasonable value of the use and occupancy of the premises." In re Section 20 Land Group, Ltd., 261 B.R. 711, 717 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 2000) (citing In re Litho Specialities, Inc., 154 B.R. 733, 740 (D. Minn. 1993)). Accordingly, the rent and related obligations reserved under the Lease are presumptive evidence of the fair and reasonable value of the Debtor's interest in the leasehold during the Stub Rent Period. See, In re Silicon Valley Telecom Exchange, LLC., 284 B.R. 700 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2002); In re Sanborn, Inc., 181 B.R. 683 (Bankr. D. Mass. 1995) (the reasonable value for the use of the premises is the lease contract rate absent evidence that the contract rate is unreasonable).

CONCLUSION

11. For the foregoing reasons, Landlord is entitled to the allowance of an administrative expense claim in the amount of \$32,758.48, as reflected in the foregoing calculations, for the Stub Rent Period.

WHEREFORE, Crossways Financial Associates, LLC respectfully requests the entry of an order pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3) and 503(a) and (b) allowing as an administrative expense obligation against the Debtor's estate a claim in the amount of \$32,758.48, together with such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: April 8, 2009

**CROSSWAYS FINANCIAL ASSOCIATES, LLC
a Virginia limited liability company**

By: /s/ Ann K. Crenshaw
Of Counsel

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Cannon Ridge Gardens Associates, L.P.,
a Virginia limited partnership, the assignee from
Tidevest Limited Partnership Associates, a Georgia limited partnership*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion of Crossways Financial Associates, LLC for Payment of Administrative Expense Claim was sent first-class, postage prepaid U.S. Mail, on this 8th day of April, 2009, to:

Counsel for Circuit City Stores, Inc.
Douglas M. Foley, Esq.
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and to all creditors and parties-in-interest who are included in the United States Bankruptcy Court's ECF e-mail notification system.

/s/ Ann K. Crenshaw

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